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All the tools of the trade

THE KGB, Prime's paymasters, provided their GCHQ mole with an array of spying equipment.

In a nutshell, according to Sir Michael Havers, Attorney-General, Prime was equipped with "all the indispensable tools of the modern-day spy."

In 1974, two Russian agents, a man and a woman speaking in broken English, delivered to Prime's sister a briefcase for him.

Inside was a secret compartment, and when Prime removed the two screws securing the handle, he found a collection of vital equipment.

The Russians also provided him with one time pads, used worldwide by security services for sending and receiving secretly coded messages.

A document found at his home fully explained the usual method of retrieving and developing microdots, which are a well known method of conveying secret information.

Prime also had a signal schedule describing days, times and frequencies when radio contact could be made with him.

Speech in German

Prime, as head of his GCHQ section, had access to highly classified documents. A verbatim copy of one top secret document was found at his home.

He was provided with a powerful radio, capable of receiving in England short wave radio messages from East Germany.

A tape, still on a recorder, contained highly sensitive information in Prime's voice. Another tape recording con-

tained a speech in German, a coded speech which had been broadcast in East Germany in 1970.

Prime also had a notebook with indecipherable indentations which he admitted contained secret carbons.

A brown loose leaf folder also had indentations which were coded numbers.

There were letters in envelopes addressed to East Germany. Their content was innocuous, but Prime admitted that invisible writing in code was overwritten on letters of that type, and sent by him to East Germany.

After his arrest, Prime claimed that a miniature camera and a further set of one time pads were still at his home, in the attic, but a thorough search by police failed to discover them.



PICTURE: KENNETH MASON

Mr R. W. Cozens (left), chief constable of West Mercia, Det. Chief Insp. Peter Picken (centre) and Det. Supt. Alan Mayo in London yesterday, after Prime was sentenced, with equipment found at his home; tape recorder, radio receiver, document case (left) with false bottom, one-time-use code pads, (right), letters and an index of young girls.